

Regulation of the 4th Samson François International Piano Competition " - 2025

Article 1 - Organizer and purpose of the competition

The organizer of the Competition entitled "Samson François International Junior Piano Competition" (hereinafter referred to as "the Competition") is the Association "Le piano en Liberté" (hereinafter referred to as "the Association"), an association governed by the French law of July 1, 1901, registered under the number RNA: W062017668 / SIREN: 910066117, with headquarters at 55 boulevard Victor Hugo 06000 Nice, represented by its president, Mrs Christine Gastaud.

The aim of the Competition is to perpetuate the musical legacy of Samson François and to enable brilliant young pianists to launch an international career.

Participation in the Contest implies full acceptance of these Regulations (hereinafter referred to as "the Regulation").

The financial terms of participation in the Competition are described in article 2.3 Registration fees.

Article 2- Participation

2.1 - Participation conditions

The Competition is open to pianists of all nationalities **born after July 5, 1989**. They must therefore be no more than 35 years old at the time of the Competition.

The Competition will take place at the Hippodrome de la Côte d'Azur in Cagnes-sur-Mer from Tuesday, July 1 to Friday, July 4, 2025 with the candidates selected after the video pre-selection phase under the conditions set out in these rules.

A regular student of one of the jury members over the last three (3) years is not allowed to take part in the competition.

Students who have taken masterclasses or occasional private lessons are not considered regular students.

2.2 - Program

a - Video preselection :

Free program of minimum 13 minutes and maximum 15 minutes, including a Virtuoso Etude, to be submitted by May 1, 2025.

Video recording conditions

- It's important to pay particular attention to the quality of the video recording. The video must be produced without cuts, in a fixed shot, with the candidate's face and hands clearly visible at all times, and without special effects such as zooms and the like. Preference should be given to sound quality.
- Any type of editing or manipulation of audio and video is forbidden and may result in disqualification.

- The two (2) works can be recorded at different times and then assembled into a single video, or it can be recorded entirely without a break between one piece and the other. It is also possible to submit parts of works individually, for example the 1st movement alone of a sonata.
- All videos must be recent (2023/2024/2025).
- The video is not necessarily intended to be recorded in a professional studio, but can also be recorded in a domestic environment.
- By submitting your entry, you automatically authorize the Contest organization to use this video for purposes related to the Contest: sending the videos to the jurors and publishing the videos on the site and on social networks.
- Recordings must be sent to the Contest email address: samsonfrancoiscompetition@gmail.com with a Youtube or Vimeo link or other, or using file transfer tools for example. In all cases, the name of the file or link must include the candidate's first and last name.

30 candidates will be selected for the semi-final on Wednesday July 2 and Thursday July 3, 2025 in Cagnes-sur-Mer.

b - Semi-final :

Free program of minimum 25 minutes and maximum 30 minutes, including a piece or set of pieces by Chopin lasting at least 7 minutes.

The program provided is subject to change until June 1, 2025. Requests for program changes should be sent by e-mail to samsonfrancoiscompetition@gmail.com . No program changes will be accepted after this date.

c - Final :

The final will take place on Friday, July 4, 2025 in Cagnes-sur-Mer. A maximum of five (5) candidates will be selected.

Recital program lasting a minimum of 50 minutes and a maximum of 55 minutes. Free program including a minimum of 10 minutes of pieces by Claude Debussy and/or Maurice Ravel and/or Gabriel Fauré.

Note: Pieces recorded for the pre-selection may be repeated for the semi-final or final. However, pieces played in the semi-final may not be repeated in the final. All works must be edited and played without score.

2.3 Registration fees

The registration fee is €100 and must be paid via the procedure described on the Competition page: <https://samsonfrancoispianocompetition.com/en/artist-inscription/> .

Applications will only be accepted once the full registration fee has been received. Any bank charges or transfer fees are the responsibility of the applicant.

No claims will be accepted and the registration fee will not be refunded under any circumstances, except under the conditions of Article 11 - Force majeure.

2.4 Application validity

Entries close on May 1, 2025 at midnight (GMT +1).

Candidates must register online (<https://samsonfrancoispianocompetition.com/en/artist-inscription/>), sending the following supporting documents:

- Copy of identity card or passport
- A curriculum vitae in English or French

- A recent high-resolution photo
- These Regulation must be signed, if they have not already been signed electronically; and the registration fee must have been paid in advance.
- Video link

For an application to be valid, it must include all of the following information and be received by the closing date for entries. Incomplete entries will be rejected.

Article 3 - Competition procedure

3.1 Contest announcement

The competition is announced on :

- The Association's website at <https://www.lesnocturnesdupiano.com>
- Sites like: www.alink-argerich.org
- The Competition website at <https://samsonfrancoispianocompetition.com/>
- Social networks used by the Association and its partners
- Paper communication tools produced by the Association.

3.2 Competition timetable

The events are open to the public and admission is free.

The competition takes place according to the following schedule:

- **Thursday, May 1, 2025:** Closing date for entries
- **Sunday, May 18, 2025:** Announcement of the 30 selected pianists
- **Wednesday 2 and Thursday 3 July 2025:** Semi-final
- **Friday, July 4, 2025:** Final, followed by Proclamation of Results and Closing Ceremony

This schedule may be adjusted by the Association.

Working pianos will be made available to candidates at the Hippodrome de la Côte d'Azur. The schedule will be communicated by e-mail in June 2025.

3.3 Jury - Selection of winners

The jury is responsible for selecting the winners.

The jury is made up of international personalities from the world of music. The composition of the jury is available on the Competition website: [Samson François International Piano Competition](https://samsonfrancoispianocompetition.com/).

In the event of a tie, the jury chairman has the casting vote. The jury's decisions are final and binding.

The jury may interrupt the performance of a work if it considers the competitor's playing to be inadequate, or if the maximum duration imposed for the round is exceeded.

Article 4 - Prizes awarded

- **Grand Prix Samson François: €7,000.**

The winner will be invited to give a recital at the next edition of the Festival **Les Nocturnes du Piano**, as well as a concert at the Estivales du Conseil Général des Alpes-Maritimes.

- Each finalist will be engaged for a paid recital in the 2025/2026 or 2026/2027 season.
- **Special prize for the best Chopin interpretation: €750**
- **Special prize for the best interpretation of Debussy, Fauré or Ravel: €750**

Other special prizes may be added. The updated list is available on the Competition website: [Samson François International Piano Competition](#).

All candidates may request a certificate of participation in the competition.

Article 5 - How prizes are awarded

The prizes will be awarded at the closing ceremony on Friday, July 4, 2025.

All candidates, accompanied by a parent or guardian in the case of minors, are recommended to attend.

Article 6 - Travel and accommodation expenses

Candidates are responsible for their own travel and accommodation expenses.

Article 7 - Image rights

Candidates must agree to any interviews, videos or promotional meetings related to the Contest.

The Association reserves the right to make or authorize audio or video recordings and to take photographs throughout the competition and during the closing ceremony. It also reserves the right to preserve and communicate these for the benefit of the Association, and to retain ownership of them.

By entering the competition, candidates authorize the Association, free of charge, to use their surname, first name(s), image and, where applicable, any other attributes of their personality, exclusively for the purposes of communication relating to the competition, by all digital and/or analog processes, on all media, worldwide and for a period of fifty (50) years from the start of the competition.

Article 8 - Official version of the rules

These regulations are written in French and English. **Only the French version is binding.**

Article 9 - Protection of personal data

As part of the organization of the Competition, the Association may collect and process personal data from candidates and, where applicable, their parents and/or legal guardians.

The Association undertakes to ensure that the processing of personal data thus carried out complies with current regulations on the protection of personal data, in particular the General Data Protection Regulation (RGPD) 2016/679 of April 27, 2016 and the French Data Protection Act no. 78-17 of January 6, 1978 as amended.

What are the purposes of this data collection?

The collection of this data is necessary for :

- Consideration or rejection of candidates' entries to the Competition
- Where applicable, to inform winning candidates individually and on the Association's website.
- Obtaining the necessary authorizations from the person(s) exercising parental authority for candidates
- Handling requests and questions sent by e-mail to the Association
- To the awarding of prizes to the winners.

What data is involved?

- For applicants :

Candidates are informed that the following personal data is collected by the Association for the purposes of the Competition: surname, first name, pseudonym where applicable, title where applicable, e-mail address where applicable for candidates aged 15 and over, date of birth, category in which the candidate is taking part. This data is collected when the form is sent, as part of the candidate's authorization to take part in the competition, completed by the person(s) exercising parental authority over the minor. The Association also collects the postal address of the minor candidate as part of the authorization provided by the person(s) exercising parental authority.

- For persons exercising parental authority :

The person(s) exercising parental authority are hereby informed that the following data concerning them will be collected by the Association: their surname, first name, if applicable title, date of birth, e-mail address, cell phone number, postal address and parental relationship with the minor candidate (if exercising parental authority). This data is collected within the framework of the authorization to take part in the Contest filled in by the person(s) exercising parental authority.

What are the legal bases for this processing?

The legal basis for the processing of personal data by the Association is the consent of the person(s) exercising parental authority for candidates.

Who receives this data?

All personal data collected by the Association is intended for use by its departments.

How long is this data kept?

This data is deleted at the end of the competition, unless it is kept for a longer period of time, as may be necessary for the management of a dispute, with the exception of the identity and, where applicable, the pseudonym of candidates in order to respect their right to paternity, and with the exception of the data of candidates who are minors and of the person(s) exercising parental authority, which is (are) kept for the legal period of prescription and then archived.

Other information about these treatments :

The Association undertakes to implement and enforce the security measures it deems necessary to ensure the confidentiality of the data collected for the time necessary for their processing, in accordance with the aforementioned French Data Protection Act. The processing does not involve automated decision-making. No data is transferred outside the European Union.

What are your rights?

In accordance with the French Data Protection Act no. 78-18 of January 6, 1978, as amended, the person or persons exercising parental authority in the case of minors may access, rectify, request the deletion of or oppose the processing of data concerning them. Certain data is, however, essential for taking into account participation in the present Contest and for awarding prizes to the winners.

To exercise these rights or for any questions about the processing of their data in connection with the Competition, applicants should contact the Association's Data Protection Officer at the following address: contact@lesnocturnesdupiano.com , specifying the purpose of the request and providing proof of identity by any means.

Visit cnil.fr for more information on your rights.

The person or persons exercising parental authority in the case of under-age candidates are informed of their right to lodge a complaint with the CNIL if, after contacting the Association, they feel that their rights with regard to their data have not been respected.

Article 10 - Insurance and civil liability

The Association is covered by civil liability insurance.

Article 11 - Force majeure

The Association may not be held liable if, in the event of force majeure as defined in article 1218 of the French Civil Code and case law, it is forced to cancel the 2025 edition of the Competition due to health conditions or government regulations, or in the event of an insufficient number of entries.

Article 12 - Applicable law and competent court

The regulations are subject to French law.

Any dispute will be brought before the competent court in Nice, after all avenues of conciliation have been exhausted.

For applicants over 18 :

I, the undersigned :

Sir Madam

First name:

Name:

Born on: At:

Nationality:

Address:

Postal code: City:

Country:

Mobile: E-mail:

- Entered in the "Artist" category
- Certify that I have read the Regulation of the "Samson François International Piano Competition" organized by the Association "Le piano en liberté" and accept them in all their provisions, and in particular :
- Consent to the collection and processing by the Association "Le piano en liberté" of personal data in the context of and for the purposes of the Competition, in accordance with article 9 of the rules.
- Graciously assigns image rights under the conditions of article 7 of the regulations.

Done at:.....

Date://

Signature of applicant of legal age :

For minor applicants :

**APPENDIX TO THE REGULATIONS
AUTHORIZATION OF PERSONS
EXERCISING PARENTAL AUTHORITY**

AUTHORIZATION

To be completed by parent(s) or guardian(s).

I/We undersigned

Sir Madam

First name:

Name:

Born on: At:

Address:

Postal code: City:

Country:

Mobile: E-mail:

And

Sir Madam

First name:

Name:

Born on: At:

Address:

Postal code: City:

Country:

Mobile: E-mail:

Parent(s) / in charge of parental authority of :

Sir Madam

First name:

Name:

Born on: At:

Nationality:

Address:

Postal code: City:

Country:

Mobile: E-mail:

hereinafter referred to as "the minor":

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- Entered in the "Artist" category
- Certify / certify that we have parental authority over the minor
- Certify / certify that I have read the Regulation of the "Samson François International Piano Competition" organized by the Association "Le piano en liberté" and accept them in all their provisions and in particular:
- Consent, when the minor is under fifteen years of age, to the collection and processing by the Association "Le piano en liberté" of the minor's personal data in the context of and for the purposes of the Competition, in accordance with article 9 of the rules.
- Assigns / assigns free of charge the image rights under the conditions of article 7 of the regulations.
- Certify that I/we have read the Contest Regulation with the minor, and that I/we have ensured that the minor has understood them.
- Authorize the minor to participate in the Contest.

Done at:.....

Date://

Signature :	Signature :
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Signature of minor over 13 :

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